LAC SEUL MANAGEMENT PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope
Minister

John R. Sloan
Deputy Minister

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Section One - Introduction

1.1 The Study Area

Lac Seul is located in the Ministry of Natural Resources Northwestern Administrative Region and it falls under the jurisdiction of three MNR administrative districts: Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and Dryden. The major portion of the lake lies within the Sioux Lookout District. The lake has a surface area of 1,450 km² and it is the second largest lake contained entirely within the Province of Ontario (Usher and Michalski, 1982).

1.2 The Problem

Lac Seul has started to display signs that are characteristic of a lake under stress. Fishing success has declined, fishing pressure from a variety of user groups has increased, conflicts between the various user groups have increased and the fish population has demonstrated early signs of over-exploitation.

While the existing quality of the sport fishery is still good, it is quite likely that this quality will continue to decline in the future unless overall management strategies for the lake are developed and implemented.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the management plan are to:

- Recognize and protect the remote recreational character of the lake;

- Maintain the existing high quality sport fishery on the lake;

- Balance annual fish harvest with annual fish productivity within each of the lake's 7 management zones;

- Work within the framework of the Dryden District and West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.*

1.4 Scope of the Study

The focus of attention was on Lac Seul and the shoreline immediately surrounding it. Efforts were concentrated on developing management strategies that would protect the existing character of the lake and maintain its high quality sport fishery.

The regulation of water levels for the generation of power is an important use of Lac Seul. Fluctuating water levels are also known to be a concern to other users of Lac Seul. Water levels on Lac Seul, however, are not under MNR's control. They are regulated by the Lake of the Woods Control Board (Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, 1981). Therefore, although considered to be important, this issue was also considered to be beyond the scope of the management plan.

1.5 Study Background

Lac Seul is a prime recreational lake. It is important to the residents of communities located close to Lac Seul as both a day use and overnight camping area. It is extremely important to the tourism industry. Main base lodges, outpost camps, boat caches and houseboats are all located on the lake. In addition to the sport fishing that occurs on the lake, commercial fishing also takes place. Whitefish and walleye are the major species caught.

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* The West Patricia Planning Area is comprised of the Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts and a portion of the Geraldton District north of the Albany River.

The Lac Seul Indian Reserve is located on Lac Seul and the lake is the source of an important domestic food supply for the Band members. As well, the Band is considering the establishment of a tourism facility on the reserve which will be dependent on the lake's sport fishery.

In 1980 a significant event relative to Lac Seul occurred in the Sioux Lookout District. That year McKenzie Forest Products limited, which operates a sawmill in Hudson, submitted a proposal to extend the Vermilion River Road to the north shore of Lac Seul in order to access timber stands in the Sunlight Lake - Broad Lake area. Four alternative routes were developed. An extensive public review was undertaken. The route that was most favoured by the public was the only route that did not create direct road access to Lac Seul, at some point. People stated that this route was preferred because it protected the remote recreational character of the lake. Both the Ontario Government, which funded the construction of the road, and McKenzie Forest Products, the company harvesting the timber, committed themselves to considerable extra construction and hauling costs in order to respect this public wish.

This event was important in shaping the future role that Lac Seul should take because since that time any development proposals that could affect Lac Seul have been evaluated for the effect they might have on the remote recreational character of the lake.

In 1983 the Dryden District Land Use Guidelines were approved and the draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines (which include Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts) were completed. The development of these guidelines involved a considerable amount of public review and discussion, including open houses and meetings with special interest groups. The guidelines recognized the importance of Lac Seul and the public reaffirmed its desire to see the lake remain a remote recreational area. The guidelines recommended that a management plan be prepared for Lac Seul.

Section Two - The Planning Process

2.1 The Steering Committee

In the spring of 1983 the MNR Regional Director for the Northwestern Region, Mr. D.R. Johnston, appointed a Lac Seul Steering Committee to develop a Lake Management Plan.

The following persons were appointed to the Steering Committee:

A.J. Stewart, Chairman	District Manager Sioux Lookout District
E.W. Everley	District Manager Red Lake District
G.M. Tupling	District Manager Dryden District
R.H. Hanlan	Senior Regional Planner Northwestern Region
N. Ward	Regional Fisheries Biologist Northwestern Region

R. Forster, District Planner, Sioux Lookout District, served as secretary to the Steering Committee.

2.2 Direction From Land Use Guidelines

The Steering Committee reviewed the Land Use Area description for Lac Seul contained in the Dryden District and West Patricia Land Use Guidelines in order to determine the direction to be taken in developing a Management Plan for Lac Seul. The Steering Committee confirmed that Lac Seul would be recognized and promoted as a prime remote recreational area. It was also decided that the Lac Seul Management Plan would focus on the lake and the surrounding shoreline.

2.3 Data Update

A number of different studies have been conducted on Lac Seul over the past 10 years. These studies have yielded a wide variety of data (See References). In September 1983 MNR fisheries staff met to review and update all fisheries data relating to the lake to ensure that it was the best information available. (Ward Report, 1983).

It was noted that with the exception of the more recent and limited data obtained from creel census conducted in 1981 and 1983, which were limited in scope, all other harvest data was based on the 1979 lakewide creel census carried out by Hough, Stansbury and Michalski. Therefore, this information was dated.

It was also agreed, however, that the information contained in Table 1 was the best information available and it would be the information used to develop management strategies for Lac Seul.

2.4 Givens and Resource Management Tools

Before MNR could proceed with the development of management strategies for Lac Seul, factors that were not under its control, and policies and programs which had been previously approved and were already in place had to be considered. These factors were divided into two categories:

i) Givens - which would influence the selection of management strategies;

ii) Resource Management Tools - which would form the basis for developing and implementing management strategies.

2.4.1 Givens

- The Land Use Guidelines, having already undergone extensive public review, determine which land use activities are acceptable for the Lac Seul Area;

TABLE 1

ANNUAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST* AND 1979 SPORT AND COMMERCIAL HARVEST DATA (KILOGRAMS)

ZONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL
Walleye Annual Allowable Harvest	29,454	29,708	3,753	15,156	5,818	11,833	14,280	110,002
Sport Harvest	18,457	10,717	14,213	21,068	5,733**	13,136	5,366***	88,690
Commercial Harvest	-	4,507	-	-	-	4,618	-	9,125
Difference	10,997	14,484	-10,468	-5,912	85	-5,921	8,914	12,187
Northern Pike Annual Allowable Harvest	17,108	17,139	2,165	8,744	3,357	6,827	8,238	63,578
Sport Harvest	52,219	9,534	5,147	18,298	3,496**	5,096	1,281	95,071
Commercial Harvest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difference	-35,111	7,605	-2,982	-9,554	-139	1,731	6,957	-31,493
Whitefish Annual Allowable Harvest	25,092	25,138	3,176	12,824	4,923	10,012	12,083	93,248
Commercial Harvest	20,866	25,000	-	-	-	9,090	-	63,908
Difference	4,226	138	3,176	12,824	4,923	922	12,083	38,292

* Based on N.W. Region partitioning criteria. Walleye.26: Northern Pike .15: Whitefish .22 (expressed as a percentage of total fish population)

** Includes data from Marshall Creel Census, 1981

*** Includes data from Adamhay Winter Creel Survey, 1983

- MNR has no direct control over water levels on Lac Seul;

- Lac Seul is a traditional domestic food source for the Lac Seul Band. In accordance with government policy this traditional use will continue to be protected;

- The Lac Seul Band is working towards developing an economic base for their community. The lake management plan will recognize that a portion of the lake's sport fishery will be made available to the Band to support their economic development plan.

- A modified management area has been established around Lac Seul (See Appendix A for an explanation of the Modified Management Area Policy).

- Construction of primary and secondary roads within 650 meters of Lac Seul is restricted;

- Lac Seul will continue to support both a sport fishery and a commercial fishery;

- Houseboats are not regulated at the present time;

- Future disposition of Crown land will be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake.

2.4.2 Resource Management Tools

a. Land Use Permit

A permit which authorizes the use of Crown land.

b. Crown Land Recreation Program

Through this trial program MNR can control camping on Crown land by non-residents.

c. Boat Cache Program

This trial program is designed to control all boats left unattended on Crown land. Non-residents of Canada cannot leave boats unattended on Crown land.

d. Fish Sanctuaries

Can be established to protect spawning areas. Anglers cannot possess fishing equipment in sanctuaries.

e. Season Adjustments

Can control the opening and/or the closing date of the fishing season, which can increase or decrease the harvest of fish.

f. Creel Limits

Controls the number, size or species of fish that can legally be taken.

g. Dialogue and Discussion

Open and honest discussion often accomplishes what laws and rules cannot.

2.5 Public Participation

Once all the data had been reviewed, the givens identified and the management tools determined, the next step was to develop a public participation program in order to identify the concerns the public had regarding Lac Seul.

2.5.1 Program Design

There are a number of different groups using Lac Seul and their degree of interest in Lac Seul varies considerably. The Steering Committee therefore decided to adopt a "3 level" approach to the public participation program developed for the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Level 1: Must Be Involved

People in this group included lodge owners, outpost camp operators, commercial fishermen, houseboat operators, fly-in air service operators and officials of the forest products industry.

People in this group were automatically sent a set of information packages.

Level 2: Should Be Involved

People in this group included remote cottagers, patented land owners and heads of local recreation and municipal associations.

People in this group were sent a personal letter informing them about the Lac Seul Management Plan. They were invited to contact MNR to obtain more detailed information about the management plan.

Level 3: May Wish to be Involved

This group included local residents of the area, who use Lac Seul for angling and other types of outdoor recreation.

Newspaper advertisements were placed in local newspapers (Dryden Observer, Northwest Explorer), informing the public that MNR was developing a management plan for Lac Seul. People were invited to contact MNR to obtain detailed information.

Several information packages were prepared and a key feature of the public participation program was to send this information out at intervals. This was done in order to ensure that people were not to be overwhelmed with a large volume of information at one time.

The following information packages were sent out:

#1 Explanation of the program. Existing land use features in the Lac Seul area.

#2 Future timber allocations in areas near Lac Seul.

#3 Fisheries information. Data concerning annual sport fish productivity and annual sport fish harvest, and commercial fisheries information.

This information was followed by a questionnaire. In total eighty sets of information were distributed to the public.

2.5.2 Meetings

In addition to input received through questionnaires, MNR staff met with many individuals and associations. Outlined below is a list of user groups who took advantage of these opportunities to voice their concerns in greater detail:

Tourist Associations

Sioux Lookout - Hudson
Ear Falls - Perrault Falls
Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Representative
Kenora District Campowners Association Executive

Individual Tourist Operators

Lodge Owners
Outpost Camp Operators
Houseboat Operators
Local Anglers
Commercial Fishermen
Lac Seul Indian Band

2.5.3 Questionnaire Results

80 questionnaires were mailed out
49 questionnaires were returned
This represents a response rate of 61%.

2.5.4 Major Issues

Listed below in order of priority are the major issues identified by the public:

- General concern for retaining or improving the quality of the sport fishery;

- Uncontrolled camping on Crown land by non-residents;

- Existence of commercial fishing quotas for walleye on two licence blocks on Lac Seul;

- Decline of the trophy northern pike fishery;

- Lack of control over the location and number of houseboats operating on the lake;

- Lack of control over the location and number of boat caches on the lake;

- A need for additional sanctuaries to protect spawning areas;

- A need to continue to strictly control road access in the vicinity of Lac Seul;

- The potential loss of wood fibre to the forest products industry in areas adjacent to the shoreline due to access road restrictions.

- A small number of remote cottages should be made available on the lake.

Section Three - The Management Plan

In reviewing the issues raised, it became apparent that some issues could be dealt with on a zone specific basis. Other issues, however were more appropriately dealt with on a lake wide basis.

The accompanying map contains both the recommendations for individual zones and the broader lake wide issues. Together, these recommendations form the basis of the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Summary

The overall intent of preparing a management plan for Lac Seul was to develop management strategies which would recognize and protect the remote character of the lake and maintain the existing high quality sport fishery on the lake, while working within the framework of the Dryden District and West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.

With the implementation of the recommendations of this management plan:

- The character of the lake will remain "remote";

- The high quality of fishing experience will be maintained;

- There will continue to be a good variety and mix of recreational experiences on the lake. These experiences will also be enhanced because conflicts between user groups will be reduced;

- There will be some opportunities for economic development.

This plan will also be in keeping with the land use intent for Lac Seul outlined in the Dryden District Land Use Guidelines and the draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.

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Marshall, I. 1981. Creel Survey, Vermilion River Road. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sioux Lookout District.

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McDonald, J. 1982. Winter Creel Survey, Adamhay Lake. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sioux Lookout District.

Usher, A. and Michalski, M. 1982. Multiple Use Resevoir Planning Approaches; Lac Seul, Northwestern Ontario. Canadian Water Resources Journal, Volume 7, No. 2.

Ward, N. et al. 1983. A Review of Fisheries Data Pertaining to Lac Seul. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sioux Lookout District.

APPENDIX A
MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREA POLICY

- Modified management areas *(MMAs) are areas that require particular management prescriptions in order to maintain or improve resource values such as fish and wildlife habitat, forest genetic resources, scenic areas and other recreational and tourism values.

- MNR will identify where modified management will take place, to assist in implementing integrated resource management on Crown land.

- The public will be consulted during the identification of MMAs and the development of their prescriptions.

- The Ministry will initially assume that an MMA of 120 metres is necessary on all shorelands.**

- MMAs will be established in other areas as required.

- MMAs will include no cut zones, selective harvest zones or both, where appropriate, for the protection of all economic, social and recreational resource values.

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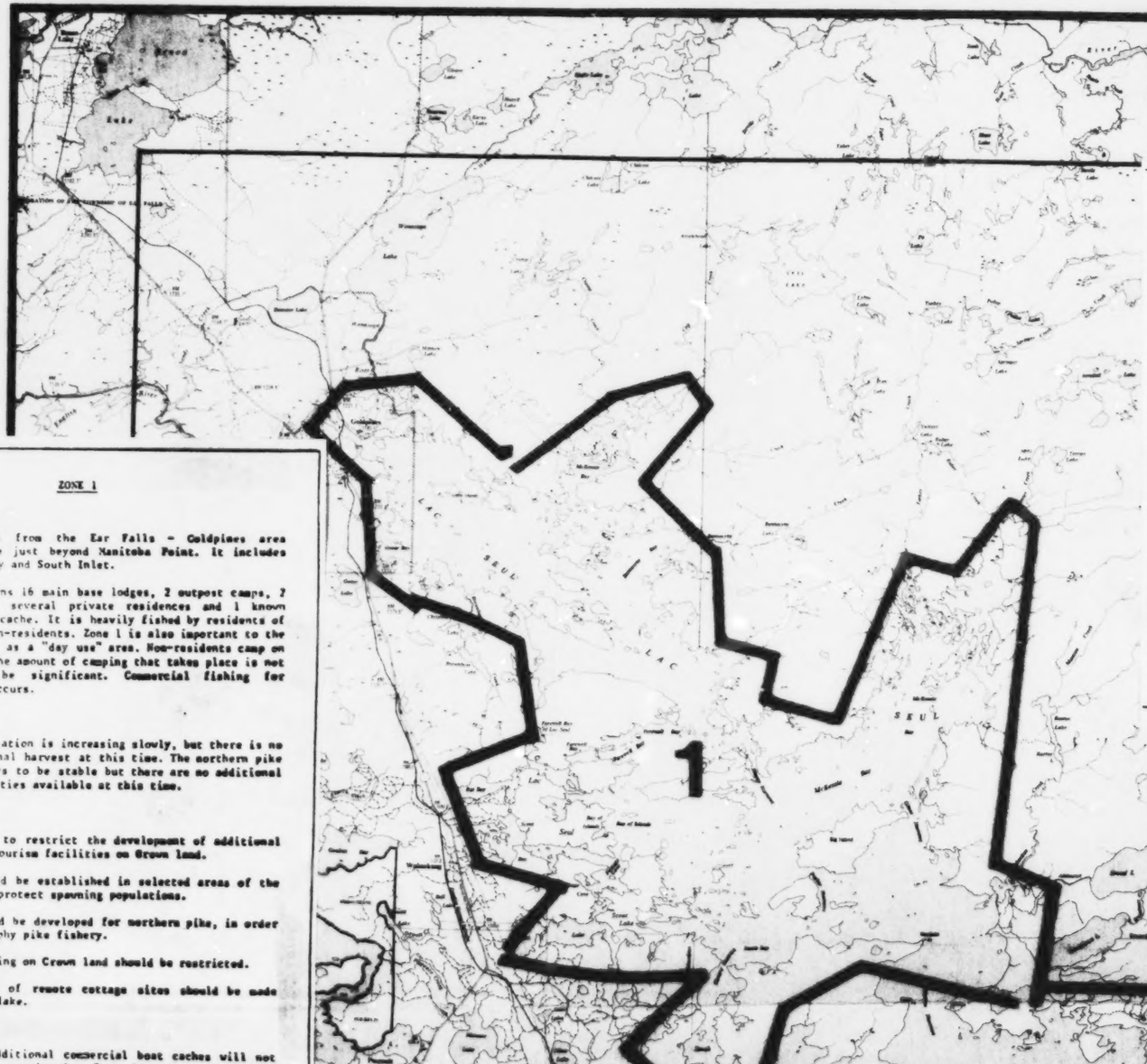
* Replaces the previously used terms such as "forest reserve" and "buffer".

** MMAs on shorelands will normally be managed by a two-zone concept where the inner zone, next to the waters, is a zone of minimal disturbance. Roads should not be built in this zone. Outer zones will be an area of more general use, but certain aspects of management will have to be carefully controlled. Extent of each zone will vary with local conditions such as topography and soil material.

Lac Seul Study Area

MAP 2 - MANAGEMENT Z



ZONE 1

a. Area Description

Zone 1 extends from the Ear Falls - Coldpines area southeasterly to just beyond Manitoba Point. It includes both McKenzie Bay and South Inlet.

This zone contains 16 main base lodges, 2 outpost camps, 7 trapper cabins, several private residences and 1 known commercial boat cache. It is heavily fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents. Zone 1 is also important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. Non-residents camp on Crown land but the amount of camping that takes place is not considered to be significant. Commercial fishing for whitefish also occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

The walleye population is increasing slowly, but there is no room for additional harvest at this time. The northern pike population appears to be stable but there are no additional harvest opportunities available at this time.

c. Issues

There is a need to restrict the development of additional fisheries based tourism facilities on Crown land.

Sanctuaries should be established in selected areas of the zone in order to protect spawning populations.

Regulations should be developed for northern pike, in order to revive the trophy pike fishery.

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

A limited number of remote cottage sites should be made available on the lake.

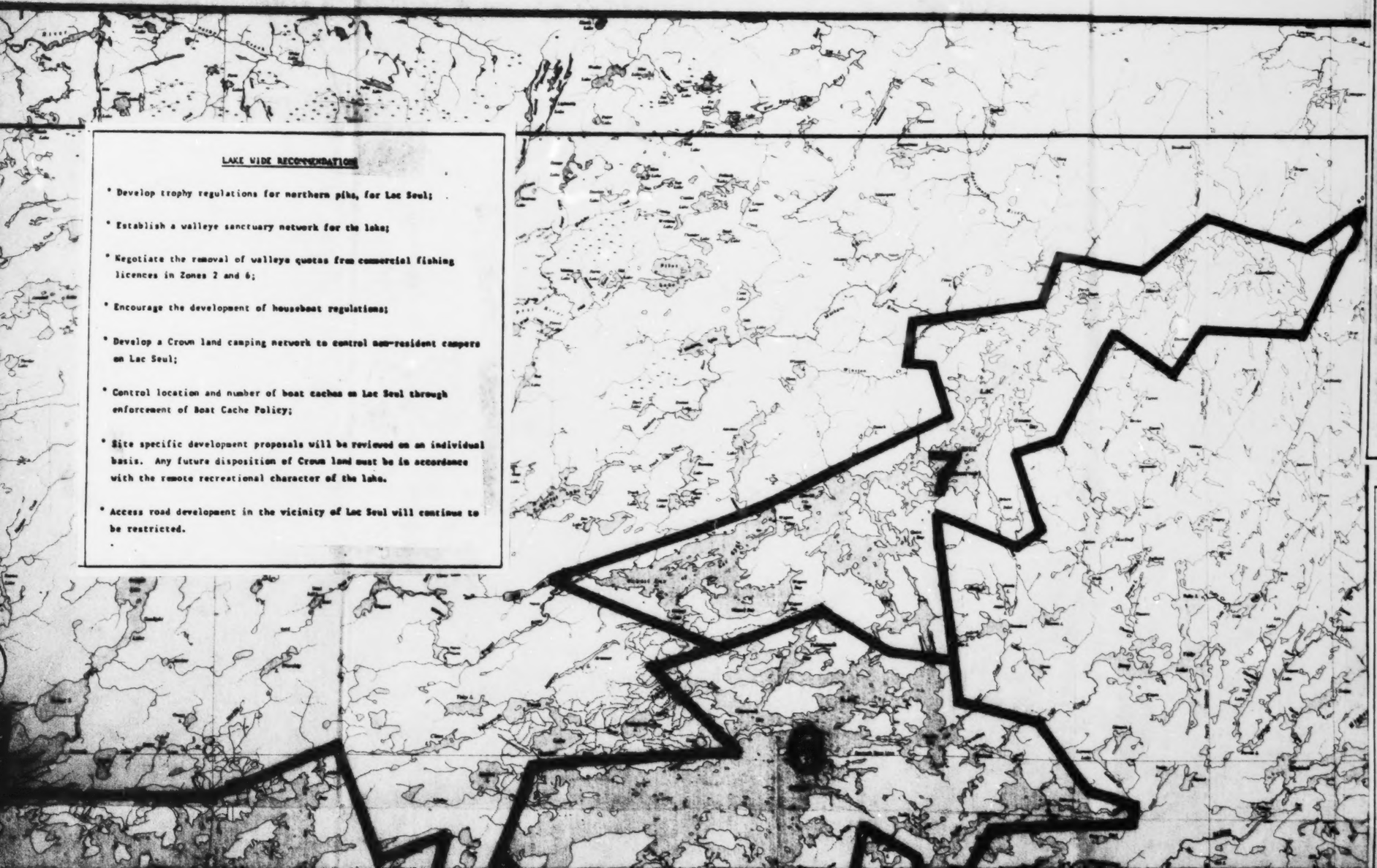
d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Additional commercial boat caches will not be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

LAKE WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

* Develop trophy regulations for northern pike, for Lac Seul;
* Establish a walleye sanctuary network for the lake;
* Negotiate the removal of walleye quotas from commercial fishing licences in Zones 2 and 6;
* Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;
* Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;
* Control location and number of boat caches on Lac Seul through enforcement of Boat Cache Policy;
* Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake.
* Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.

P 2 - MANAGEMENT ZONES



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* Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;

* Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;

* Control location and number of boat caches on Lac Seul through enforcement of Boat Cache Policy;

* Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake.

* Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.

ZONE 7

a. Area Description

This zone lies in the northeast portion of the lake. It stretches from Wapesi Bay to Adamhay Lake. It includes Chamberlain Narrows, Brisco Inlet and Gynane Bay.

There is 1 main lodge, 3 outpost camps, 3 remote cottages and 4 known commercial boat caches in this zone. There is some houseboat use and some tourism "day use" in this area. Local residents use this area including Adamhay Lake for winter fishing. Some Crown land camping by non-residents occurs. The Root River Fish Sanctuary is located in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

There are additional angling opportunities for both walleye and northern pike in this zone.

c. Issues

There is a potential to create an overharvest situation in this zone if too many users are shifted into or encouraged to use this zone.

The proposed extension of the duration of the Root River Sanctuary.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	Investigate the possibility of relocating some boat caches from Zone 3 into this zone. No new boat caches will be permitted on Crown land. Unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Continue to prohibit commercial fishing.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to shift some of their use from Zone 6 to Zone 7.
Fish Sanctuary:	Extend the duration of the fish sanctuary. Sanctuary to be in effect from December 1 to June 21.

ZONE 6

a. Area Description

This zone lies northeast of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve. It includes Tuktegueik Bay, Brechin Bay and Scaler Lake.

There are 3 outpost camps, 3 remote cottages, 3 known commercial boat caches and 3 private boat caches in this zone. Local residents and houseboat operators use this area and there is some "day use" by tourist operators. There is a moderate amount of camping on Crown land by non-residents. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished and there is an established camp for storing and processing the fish caught commercially.

b. MNR Assessment

There is a significant overharvest of walleye in this zone. The annual harvest of walleye must be reduced in order to come into balance with the annual productivity in order to protect the long term health of the walleye fishery.

c. Issues

There is no control on the number of houseboats that operate in this zone, nor where they locate.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

ZONE 1

a. Area Description

Zone 1 extends from the Ear Falls - Coldpines area southeasterly to just beyond Manitoba Point. It includes both McKenzie Bay and South Inlet.

This zone contains 16 main base lodges, 2 outpost camps, 7 trapper cabins, several private residences and 1 known commercial boat cache. It is heavily fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents. Zone 1 is also important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. Non-residents camp on Crown land but the amount of camping that takes place is not considered to be significant. Commercial fishing for whitefish also occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

The walleye population is increasing slowly, but there is no room for additional harvest at this time. The northern pike population appears to be stable but there are no additional harvest opportunities available at this time.

c. Issues

There is a need to restrict the development of additional fisheries based tourism facilities on Crown land.

Sanctuaries should be established in selected areas of the zone in order to protect spawning populations.

Regulations should be developed for northern pike, in order to revive the trophy pike fishery.

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

A limited number of remote cottage sites should be made available on the lake.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	Additional commercial boat caches will not be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish will continue to be permitted. Whitefish quotas will not be increased.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.
Fish Sanctuary:	A fish sanctuary will be established in the west end of Zone 1.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged not to use this zone.

ZONE 2

a. Area Description

Zone 2 extends from just west of Windigo Point to an area that is slightly east of Lac Seul Post. McIntyre Bay, Williams Bay, Bray Lake and Aldous Bay all lie within this zone.

There is 1 main base lodge, 1 outpost camp and 3 known commercial boat caches in Zone 2. It is fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents and it is an important "day use" area to the tourist industry. Crown land camping by non-residents occurs but is not considered to be significant. There is public access to Lac Seul via Williams Creek and Williams' Bay. The Lac Seul Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its domestic food supply. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished. A recommendation has been made to establish a Nature Reserve at Windigo Point.

b. MNR Assessment

There are additional opportunities for harvesting both walleye and northern pike in this zone.

c. Issues

There is a potential to create an overharvest situation if too many users are shifted into or encouraged to use this zone.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught though the tourism industry.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Investigate the possibility of relocating

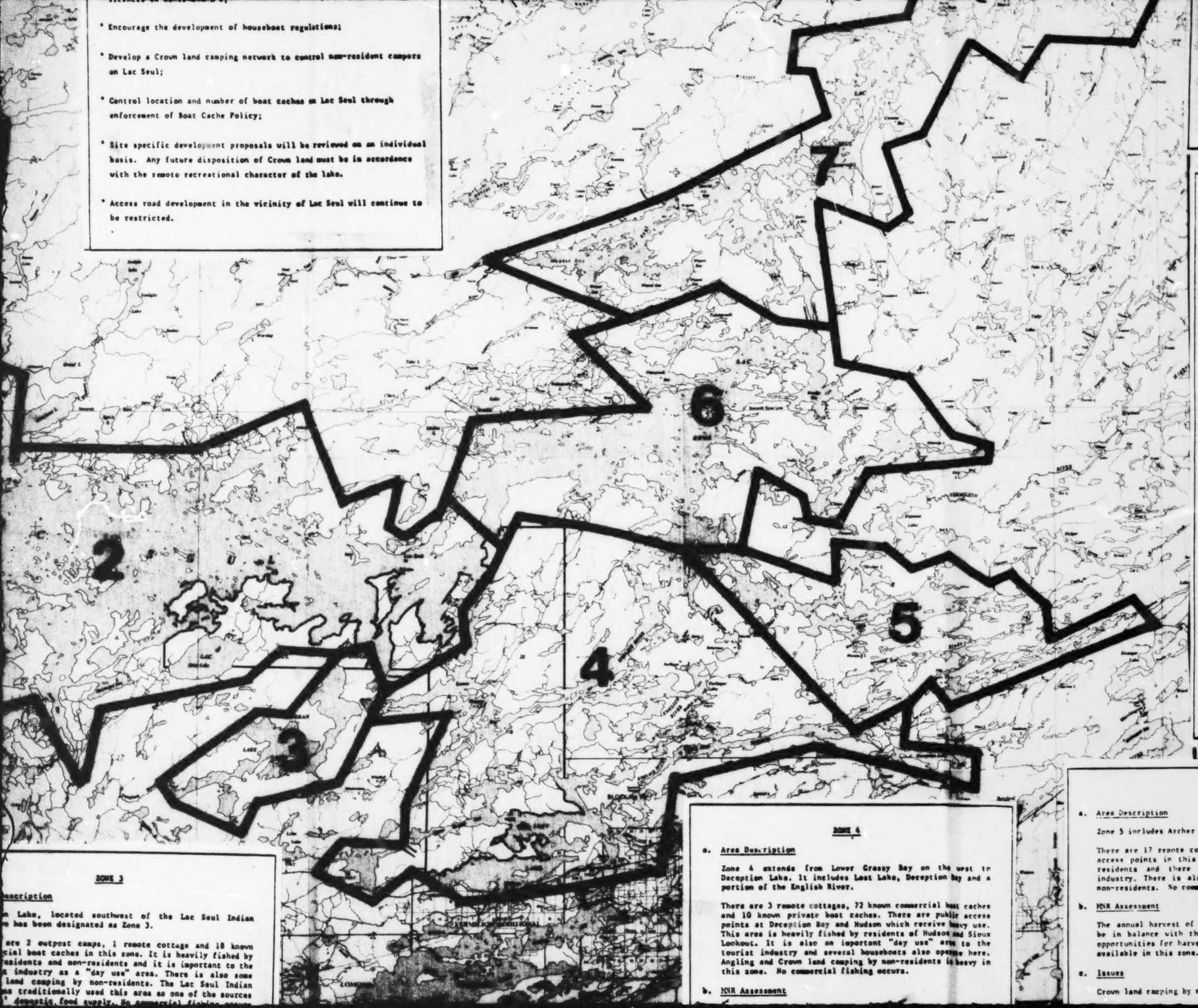
ZONE 3

a. Area Description

Vaughan Lake, located southwest of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve has been designated as Zone 3.

There are 2 outpost camps, 1 remote cottage and 18 known commercial boat caches in this zone. It is heavily fished by both residents and non-residents and it is important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. There is also some Crown land camping by non-residents. The Lac Seul Indian Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its' domestic food supply.

- Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;
- Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;
- Control location and number of boat caches on Lac Seul through enforcement of Boat Cache Policy;
- Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake.
- Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.



- Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;
- Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;
- Control location and number of boat caches on Lac Seul through enforcement of Boat Cache Policy;
- Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake.
- Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.

Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to shift some of their use from Zone 6 to Zone 7.
Fish Sanctuary:	Extend the duration of the fish sanctuary. Sanctuary to be in effect from December 1 to June 21.

ZONE 6

a. Area Description

This zone lies northeast of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve. It includes Tuktegwuik Bay, Brechin Bay and Scaler Lake.

There are 3 outpost camps, 3 remote cottages, 3 known commercial boat caches and 3 private boat caches in this zone. Local residents and houseboat operators use this area and there is some "day use" by tourist operators. There is a moderate amount of camping on Crown land by non-residents. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished and there is an established camp for storing and processing the fish caught commercially.

b. MNR Assessment

There is a significant overharvest of walleye in this zone. The annual harvest of walleye must be reduced in order to come into balance with the annual productivity in order to protect the long term health of the walleye fishery.

c. Issues

There is no control on the number of houseboats that operate in this zone, nor where they locate.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	No additional boat caches to be permitted on Crown land. Unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish to continue to be permitted. Whitefish quota may be permitted to be increased. Negotiate the removal of the walleye quota from the existing licence.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to control the number and location of houseboats in this zone.

ZONE 3

a. Area Description

Zone 3 includes Archer Lake, Son Bay and Bindo Lake.

There are 17 remote cottages, 14 private boat caches and 2 access points in this zone. It is heavily fished by local residents and there is some "day use" by the tourist industry. There is also significant Crown land camping by non-residents. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

The annual harvest of walleye and northern pike appears to be in balance with the annual productivity. No additional opportunities for harvesting walleye or northern pike are available in this zone.

c. Issues

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

ZONE 4

a. Area Description

Zone 4 extends from Lower Grassy Bay on the west to Deception Lake. It includes Lost Lake, Deception Bay and a portion of the English River.

There are 3 remote cottages, 72 known commercial boat caches and 10 known private boat caches. There are public access points at Deception Bay and Hudson which receive heavy use. This area is heavily fished by residents of Hudson and Sioux Lookout. It is also an important "day use" area to the tourist industry and several houseboats also operate here. Angling and Crown land camping by non-residents is heavy in this zone. No commercial fishing occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

ZONE 3

escription

n Lake, located southwest of the Lac Saul Indian e has been designated as Zone 3.

are 2 outpost camps, 1 remote cottage and 18 known cial boat caches in this zone. It is heavily fished by esidents and non-residents and it is important to the industry as a "day use" area. There is also some land camping by non-residents. The Lac Saul Indian s traditionally used this area as one of the sources domestic food supply. No commercial fishing occurs

zone in order to protect spawning populations.

Regulations should be developed for northern pike, in order to revive the trophy pike fishery.

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

A limited number of remote cottage sites should be made available on the lake.

d. Recommendations

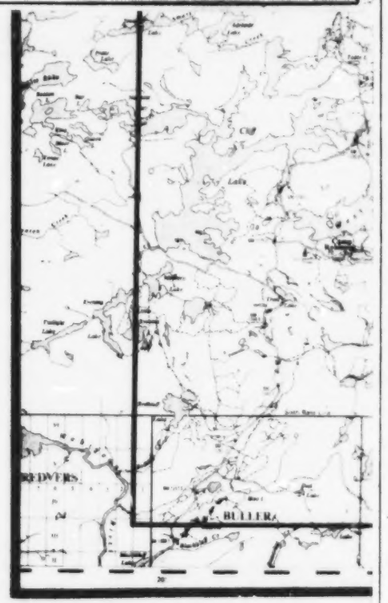
Boat Caches: Additional commercial boat caches will not be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing of whitefish will continue to be permitted. Whitefish quotas will not be increased.

Crown Land Camping: Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.

Fish Sanctuary: A fish sanctuary will be established in the west end of Zone 1.

Houseboats: Houseboat operators will be encouraged not to use this zone.



ZONE 2

a. Area Description

Zone 2 extends from just west of Windigo Point to an area that is slightly east of Lac Seul Post. McIntyre Bay, Williams Bay, Bray Lake and Aldous Bay all lie within this zone.

There is 1 main base lodge, 1 outpost camp and 3 known commercial boat caches in Zone 2. It is fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents and it is an important "day use" area to the tourist industry. Crown land camping by non-residents occurs but is not considered to be significant. There is public access to Lac Seul via Williams Creek and Williams' Bay. The Lac Seul Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its domestic food supply. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished. A recommendation has been made to establish a Nature Reserve at Windigo Point.

b. MNR Assessment

There are additional opportunities for harvesting both walleye and northern pike in this zone.

c. Issues

There is a potential to create an overharvest situation if too many users are shifted into or encouraged to use this zone.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

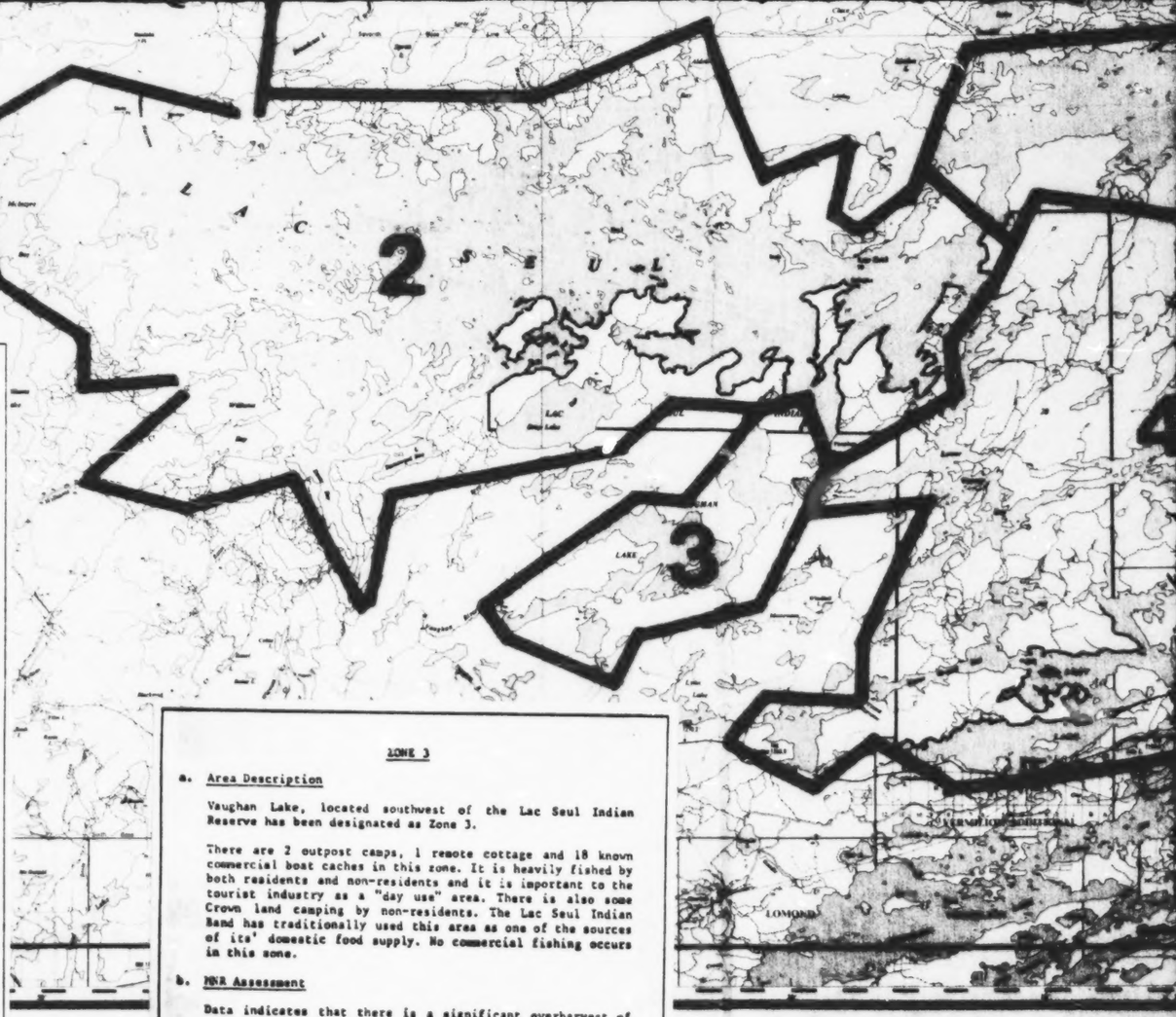
d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Investigate the possibility of relocating some of the boats cached in Zone 3 into Zone 2. No new boat caches are to be permitted. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing of whitefish will be permitted to continue. Whitefish quotas will not be increased. Negotiate the removal of the walleye quota from the existing licence.

Crown Land Camping: Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.

Houseboats: Encourage houseboat operators to shift some of their use from Zones 4 and 6 to Zone 2.



ZONE 3

a. Area Description

Vaughan Lake, located southwest of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve has been designated as Zone 3.

There are 2 outpost camps, 1 remote cottage and 18 known commercial boat caches in this zone. It is heavily fished by both residents and non-residents and it is important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. There is also some Crown land camping by non-residents. The Lac Seul Indian Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its' domestic food supply. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

Data indicates that there is a significant overharvest of walleye in this zone. Harvests must be reduced to the annual productivity to protect the long term health of the walleye fishery in this zone.

c. Issues

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

There is a potential to create road access to Vaughn Lake via Lynx Lake Road.

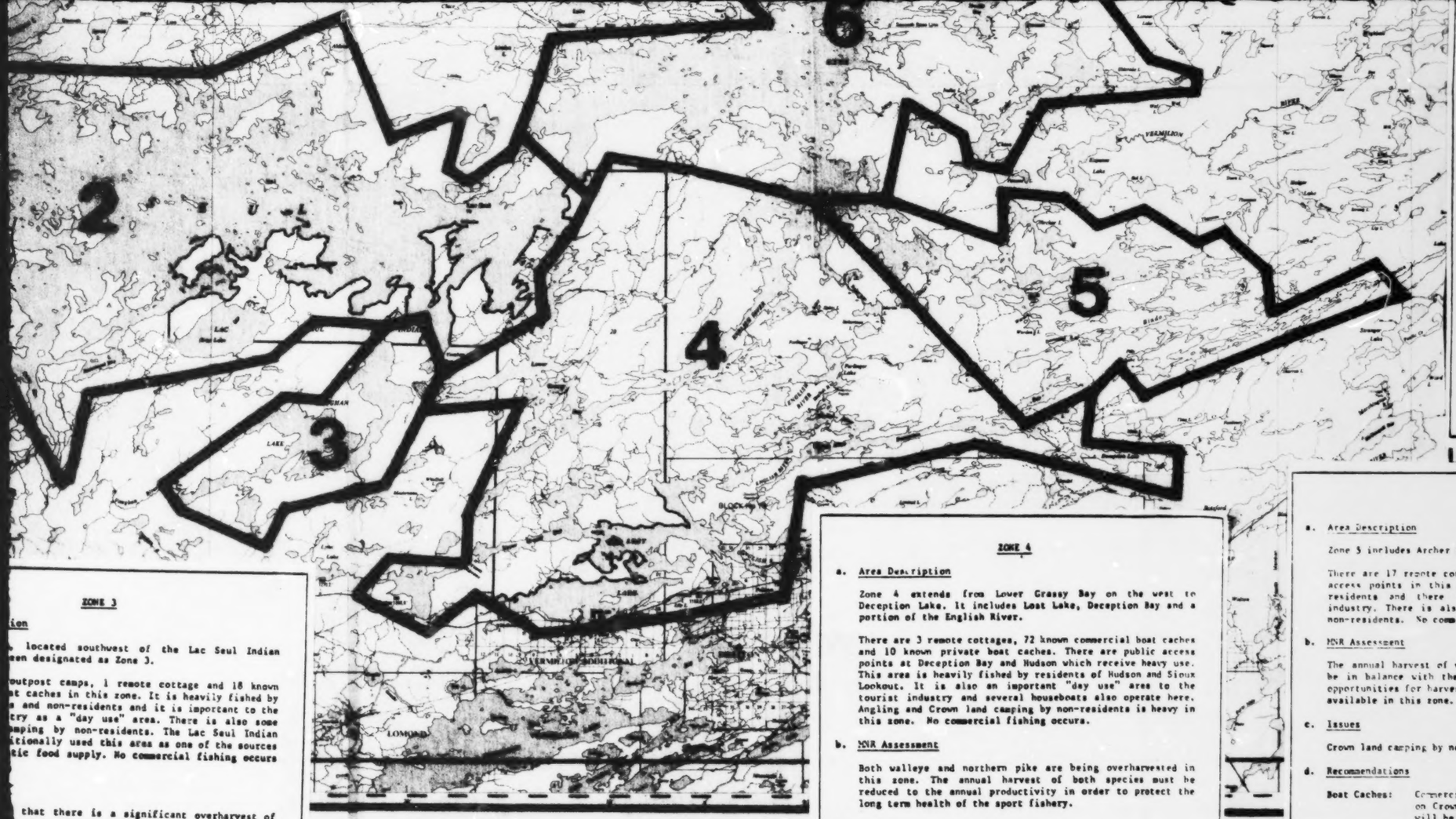
d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Remove all commercial boat caches in Zone 3. Investigate the possibility of relocating boat caches to specific sites in Zones 2 and 7 and/or suitable smaller lakes north of Lac Seul.

Commercial Fishing: Continue to prohibit commercial fishing.

Crown Land Camping: Crown Land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.

Houseboats: Encourage houseboat operators not to use this zone.



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Remove all commercial boat caches in Zone 3.
Investigate the possibility of relocating
boat caches to specific sites in Zones 2 and
7 and/or suitable smaller lakes north of Lac
Seul.

Continue to prohibit commercial fishing.

Crown Land camping by non-residents will be
prohibited.

Encourage houseboat operators not to use
this zone.

ZONE 4

a. Area Description

Zone 4 extends from Lower Grassy Bay on the west to Deception Lake. It includes Lost Lake, Deception Bay and a portion of the English River.

There are 3 remote cottages, 72 known commercial boat caches and 10 known private boat caches. There are public access points at Deception Bay and Hudson which receive heavy use. This area is heavily fished by residents of Hudson and Sioux Lookout. It is also an important "day use" area to the tourist industry and several houseboats also operate here. Angling and Crown land camping by non-residents is heavy in this zone. No commercial fishing occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

Both walleye and northern pike are being overharvested in this zone. The annual harvest of both species must be reduced to the annual productivity in order to protect the long term health of the sport fishery.

c. Issues

Crown land camping by non-residents should be restricted.

There is no control on the houseboats which operate in this zone.

There is a problem of overcrowding at the Deception access point.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	Permit commercial operators to cache boats at present locations. No additional boat caches to be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing will continue to be prohibited.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.
Houseboats:	Encourage houseboat operators to use Zone 2 and 7 instead of Zone 4.
Access Point:	Initiate steps to relocate access point at Deception Bay.

ZONE 5

a. Area Description

Zone 5 includes Archer Lake, Sen Bay and Bindo Lake.

There are 17 remote cottages, 14 private boat caches and 2 access points in this zone. It is heavily fished by local residents and there is some "day use" by the tourist industry. There is also significant Crown land camping by non-residents. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

The annual harvest of walleye and northern pike appears to be in balance with the annual productivity. No additional opportunities for harvesting walleye or northern pike are available in this zone.

c. Issues

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	Commercial boat caches will not be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing will continue to be prohibited.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to use Zones 2 and 7 instead of Zone 5.

ZONE 6

a. Area Description

Zone 6 includes Bindo Lake, Sen Bay, Archer Lake, Vermilion Bay and the Vermilion River.

There are 3 remote cottages, 14 private boat caches and 2 access points in this zone. It is heavily fished by local residents and there is some "day use" by the tourist industry. There is also significant Crown land camping by non-residents. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

The annual harvest of walleye and northern pike appears to be in balance with the annual productivity. No additional opportunities for harvesting walleye or northern pike are available in this zone.

c. Issues

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

There is no control on the number of houseboats that operate in this zone, nor where they locate.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	No additional boat caches to be permitted on Crown land. Unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish to continue to be permitted. Whitefish quota may be permitted to be increased. Negotiate the removal of the walleye quota from the existing licence.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to control the number and location of houseboats in this zone.